

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 04245 152232Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
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P R 152200Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9241
INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVDOR 4245

STATE ALSO FOR LA/MRSD (GEORGE PHILLIPS) AND ARA/RPP (JOHN
O'GRADY)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PGOV, ES
SUBJ: EMBASSY RECEIVES REPORTS THAT AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE MAY BE
ASKED TO LEAVE BY GOES

REF: SAN SALVADOR 4108

1. EMBASSY HAS RECIEVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT RICHARD
OULAHAN, AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS BEEN HERE SINCE JULY 17,
MAY BE ASKED BY THE GOES TO LEAVE,PERHAPS BY THE END OF THIS
WEEK. ONE REPORT RECEIVED BY EMBASSY IS THAT, DESPITE
OULAHAN'S CONSULTATIONS WITH GOES ADVISORS TO UNION COMUNAL
SALVADORENA (UCS), SOME MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES ARE
VIEWING WITH SUSPICION HIS ACTIVITIES WITH UCS. OHTER REPORTS
INDICATE CONCERN OVER MANNER IN WHICH OULAHAN IS CARRYING
OUT HIS MISSION, RESULTING IN QUESTIONING OF HIS ACTIVITIES
AND MOVES TO HAVE HIM OUSTED.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH OULAHAN ON AUGUST 15,
POLITICAL OFFICER AND LABOR OFFICER TOLD OULAHAN
ABOUT THE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT HE MIGHT BE
DEPORTED THIS WEEK. OULAHAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE
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RISK BUT WAS GOING TO CONTINUE ON AS BEFORE. POLITICAL
OFFICER SAID THAT AS MUCH AS THE EMBASSY WOULD WANT
TO HELP, THRE WAS LITTLE IT COULD DO IF OULAHAN,
GIVEN THE FACT THAT HE IS HERE ON A TOURIST VISA, WAS
SUDDENLY ASKED BY THE GOES TO LEAVE. OULAHAN SAID HE
HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT FROM THE BEGINNING.

3. POLITICAL OFFICER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A SITUATION IN WHICH OULAHAN WAS EXPELLED BECAUSE OF ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO AND APPROVED BY THE GOES COULD WELL SET BACK THE CASE OF UCS AND AIFLD FOR YEARS. OULAHAN SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AS WELL AND HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET APPOINTMENT WITH SUBSECRETARY OF LABOR THAT MORNING TO DISCUSS HIS ACTIVITIES AND STATUS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED OF HIS MOVEMENTS.

4. COMMENT. WHILE EMBASSY DOES NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE ALARMIST, IT IS CONCERNED THAT CONTINUING REPORTS OULAHAN MAY BE DEPORTED SHORTLY MAY WELL HAVE A CERTAIN VALIDITY. THERE ARE MANY ELEMENTS IN SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY WHO STILL REGARD AIFLD'S PAST ACTIVITIES WITH SUSPICION. THESE SAME ELEMENTS, ALREADY PRE-DISPOSED AGAINST AIFLD, MAY BE ALL TOO WILLING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OULAHAN'S ACTIONS (ESTABLISHMENT OF A SIZABLE BANK ACCOUNT IN HIS NAME, HIS ATTEMPTS TO ARRANGE SEMINARS FOR UCS, HIS EFFORTS TO RECRUIT STAFF, AND HIS OTHER HIGHLY VISIBLE ACTIVITIES IN LABOR FIELD) TO SAY HE IS IN VIOLATION OF HIS TOURIST VISA. VISIT ASAP OF SAN HADDAD (SUGGESTED BY HADDAD IN TELECON WITH POLITICAL OFFICER ON AUGUST 14) TO CLARIFY THESE AND OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING OULAHAN'S STATUS AND ACTIVITIES WOULD BE CONSIDERED USEFUL BY THE EMBASSY.
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